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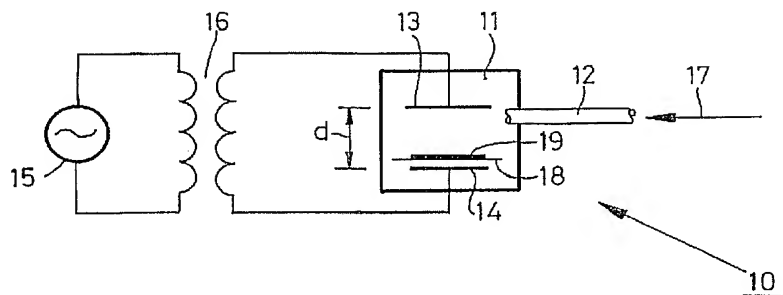
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(57) Abstract: Method and apparatus for generating and sustaining a glow discharge plasma in a plasma discharge space comprising at least two spaced electrodes. The method and apparatus are arranged for performing the steps of introducing in the discharge space a gas or gas mixture under atmospheric pressure conditions, energizing the electrodes by applying an AC energizing voltage (V_a) to the electrodes, and controlling the energizing voltage (V_a) such that at plasma generation a sharp relative decrease of displacement current is provided.

WO 2005/062337 A1